

confined mainly to the outer webs, while in *argentatus* the black involves much of the inner webs.

Mr. Brewster appears to be somewhat in doubt as to the relation of Bruch's *chalcopterus* to his *kumlieni*, and thinks they may possibly be the same bird. My own opinion is that Bruch's *chalcopterus* is practically indeterminable, his diagnosis being insufficient to be applied with certainty to any species of a family like the Gulls, where the range of individual variation is so great, and the resemblances so close, as they are between the large, light primaried species of the Far North. Whatever may be the relation of Brewster's *kumlieni* to the *chalcopterus* of Bruch, the latter name cannot apply to the *L. nelsoni*. Bruch's statement that the *chalcopterus* is "wholly similar to the preceding [*L. leucopterus*] except in the primaries," puts *nelsoni* out of the question because of its large size.

I dedicate the species to Mr. E. W. Nelson, as a slight recognition of his valuable services to Alaskan ornithology.

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#### NOTE ON *ASTUR ATRICAPILLUS STRIATULUS*.

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY.

I AM sorry to have to state that *Astur atricapillus henshawi*, described by Mr. Nelson in the April number of 'The Auk,' is essentially the same as my *A. atricapillus striatulus* (*A. atricapillus* var. *striatulus*, Hist. N. Am. B., III, 1874, pp. 238, 239), and that according to the rules of zoölogical nomenclature the later name becomes a synonym of the earlier. *A. atricapillus striatulus* included both the dark western race, to which the name *henshawi* was very properly restricted by Mr. Nelson, and also a special plumage of true *A. atricapillus*; but reference to the original description (l. c.) shows that three of the four specimens described, and therefore virtually the types, are of the dark western race. It is true that the name *striatulus* was suggested by the very fine pencillings of the under parts which

characterize a particular phase of plumage in the adult of *A. atricapillus* proper, and also that the name is somewhat inappropriate when applied exclusively to the form under consideration; but a proper regard for the rules which tend most to the stability of nomenclature will not admit of a name being discarded on account of inappropriateness.

It is due Mr. Nelson to state that he bestowed the name *henshawi* under the impression, which I at the time shared with him, that a new title was necessary; in fact, I had myself transferred *striatulus* to the list of synonyms of *atricapillus*.

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ON THE POSSIBLE SPECIFIC IDENTITY OF  
*BUTEO COOPERI* CASS. WITH *B.*  
*HARLANI* (AUD.).

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY.

THE type of *Buteo cooperi* Cass. was obtained by Dr. J. G. Cooper at Santa Clara California, in November, 1855, and the supposed new species described by Mr. Cassin in October of the following year (Proc. Philad. Acad. Sci., VIII, Oct. 1856, p. 253). Since that time but one additional specimen has been taken, the one in question having been procured in Colorado, by Mr. C. E. Aiken, to whose courtesy I am indebted for the opportunity of examining it. A description of this specimen, with measurements, was prepared and sent, in 1875, to the 'American Naturalist' for publication, but I am informed never reached its destination, having probably been lost in the mails. The specimen was returned soon afterward, and I am therefore without memoranda respecting it, except measurements, which fortunately were preserved.\* According to my recollection, however, the Colorado specimen agreed pretty closely with the type, except in the color of the primaries, which were marked much like those of *B. borealis* and *B. harlani*; that is, instead of being uniform hoary grayish on the outer webs, they were more brownish, and distinctly marked with dusky quadrate spots. Both specimens differ conspicuously from any plumage of *B. borealis* in having the

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\* I am informed by Mr. Henshaw that this specimen is still, or was recently, in Mr. Aiken's possession.